DC BLACK LABEL

# WALLER VS WILDSTORM

BOOK THREE

17+ MATURE


SPENCER ACKERMAN
EVAN NARCISSE
JESÚS MERINO
VICENTE CIFUENTES
MICHAEL ATIYEH


FORNÉS

BOOK THREE

# WALLER VS WILDSTORM

SPENCER ACKERMAN
& EVAN NARCISSE
WRITERS

JESÚS MERINO
PENCILLER & INKS (PGS 1-5)

VICENTE CIFUENTES
INKS, PGS 6-32

MICHAEL ATIYEH
COLORS

DAVE SHARPE
LETTERS

JORGE FORNÉS
COVER

ERIC BATTLE &
ULISES ARREOLA
VARIANT COVER

AARON CAMPBELL
1:25 VARIANT COVER

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GAMORRA.
THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

FWWOOSH

CHYORT!

--HHKKGLBB

--HHHCCHH HHCCHH--

BROOKLYN Beach Shop

Ruby's Bar & Grill

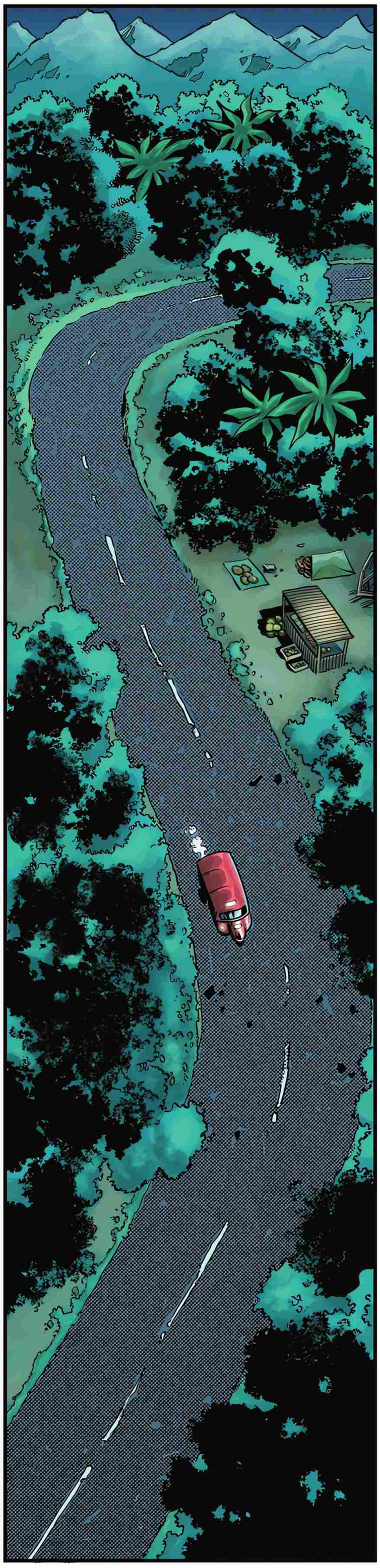
--GGGLLLKKK--

GRRRRRRK

HAHAHAHA-
-HHSSHH-
-HAHA

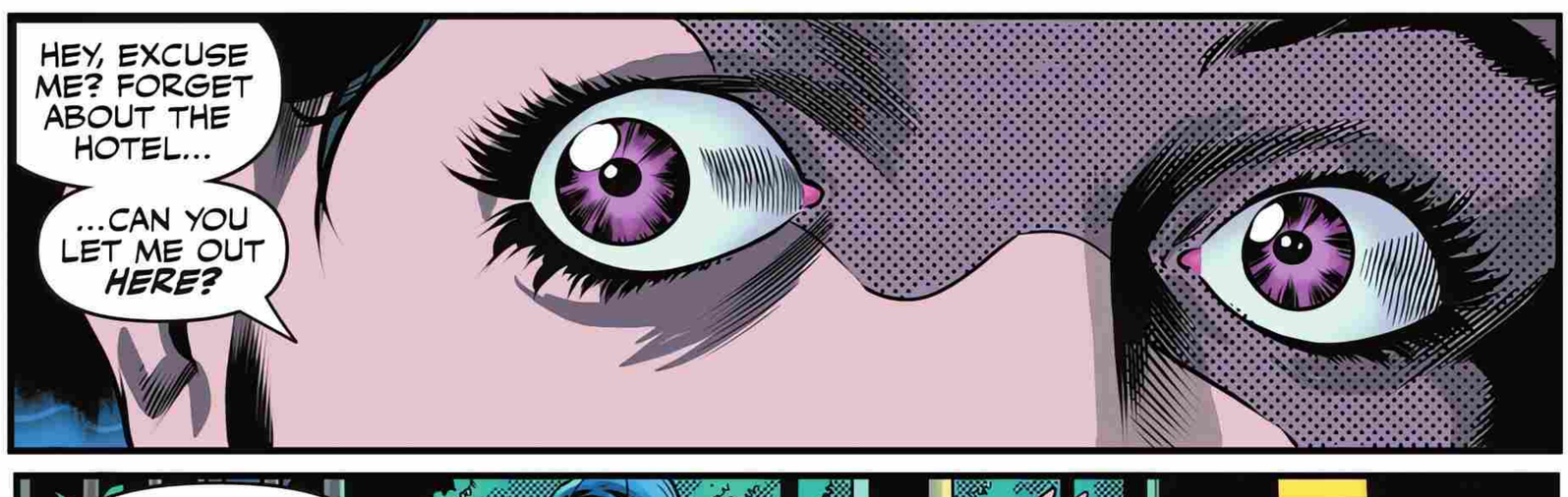
ZZZZZZRK

SINCE 1980



3 KM
CITY

CUPERTINO
HUMAN
RESOURCES
INC


HEY, EXCUSE ME? FORGET ABOUT THE HOTEL...
...CAN YOU LET ME OUT *HERE?*

HI! SORRY TO BOTHER YOU. DO YOU *WORK* HERE?
MY NAME IS *LOIS LANE* AND I'M A REPORTER FOR THE *DAILY PLANET!*

YEAH? GOOD FOR YOU.

PARDON ME, BUT...ARE YOU AMERICAN?

FUCK NO.

WHAT I AM IS *DONE WITH WORK.* NICE MEETING YOU.

WAIT! *PLEASE!* JUST ONE SECOND, I PROMISE...

BY ANY CHANCE, DID SOMEONE NAMED *KATRINA CUPERTINO* WORK HERE?

WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU?

I'M A REPORTER. SO YOU KNOW THIS WOMAN?

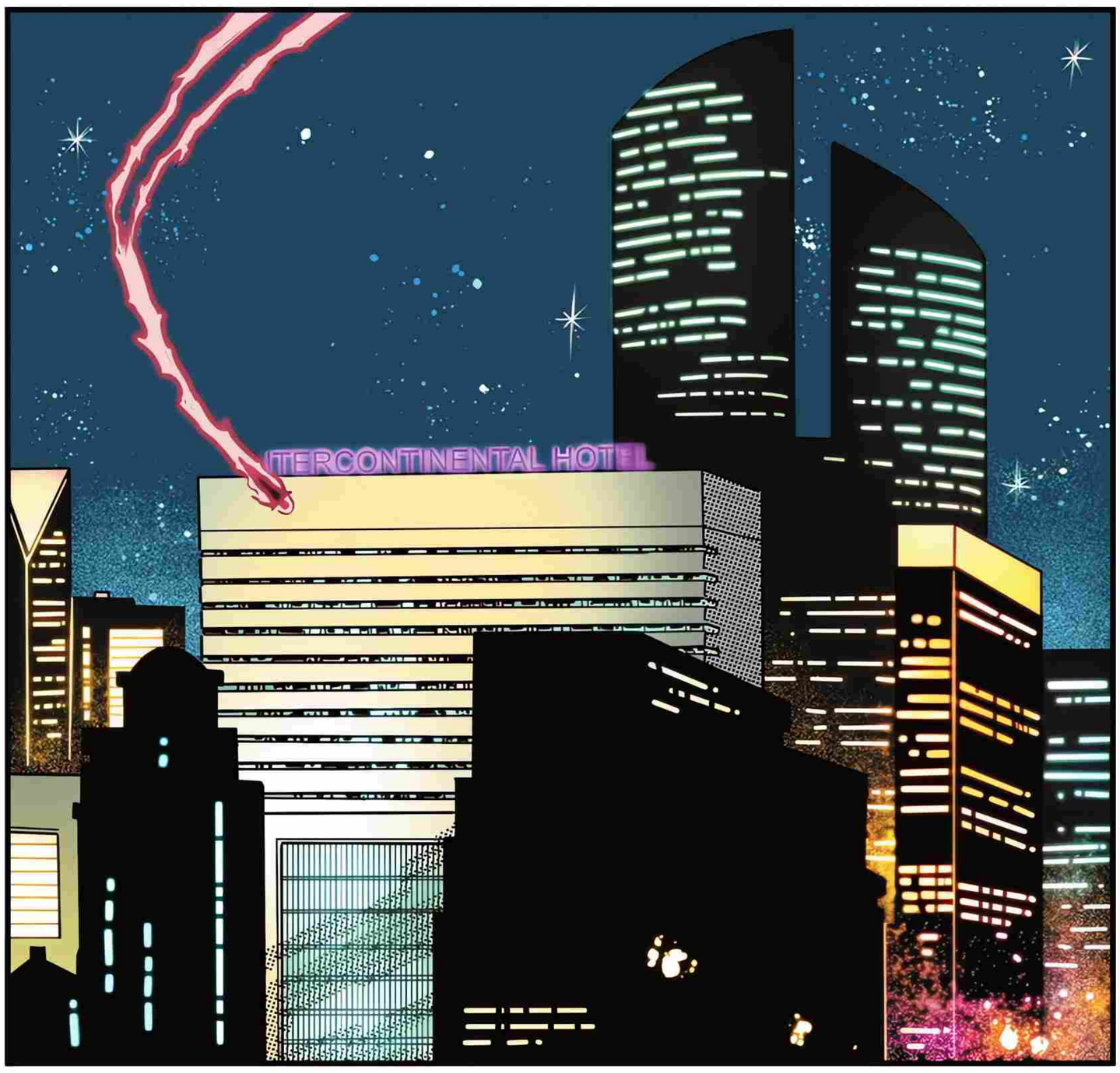
OH, *JESUS...*

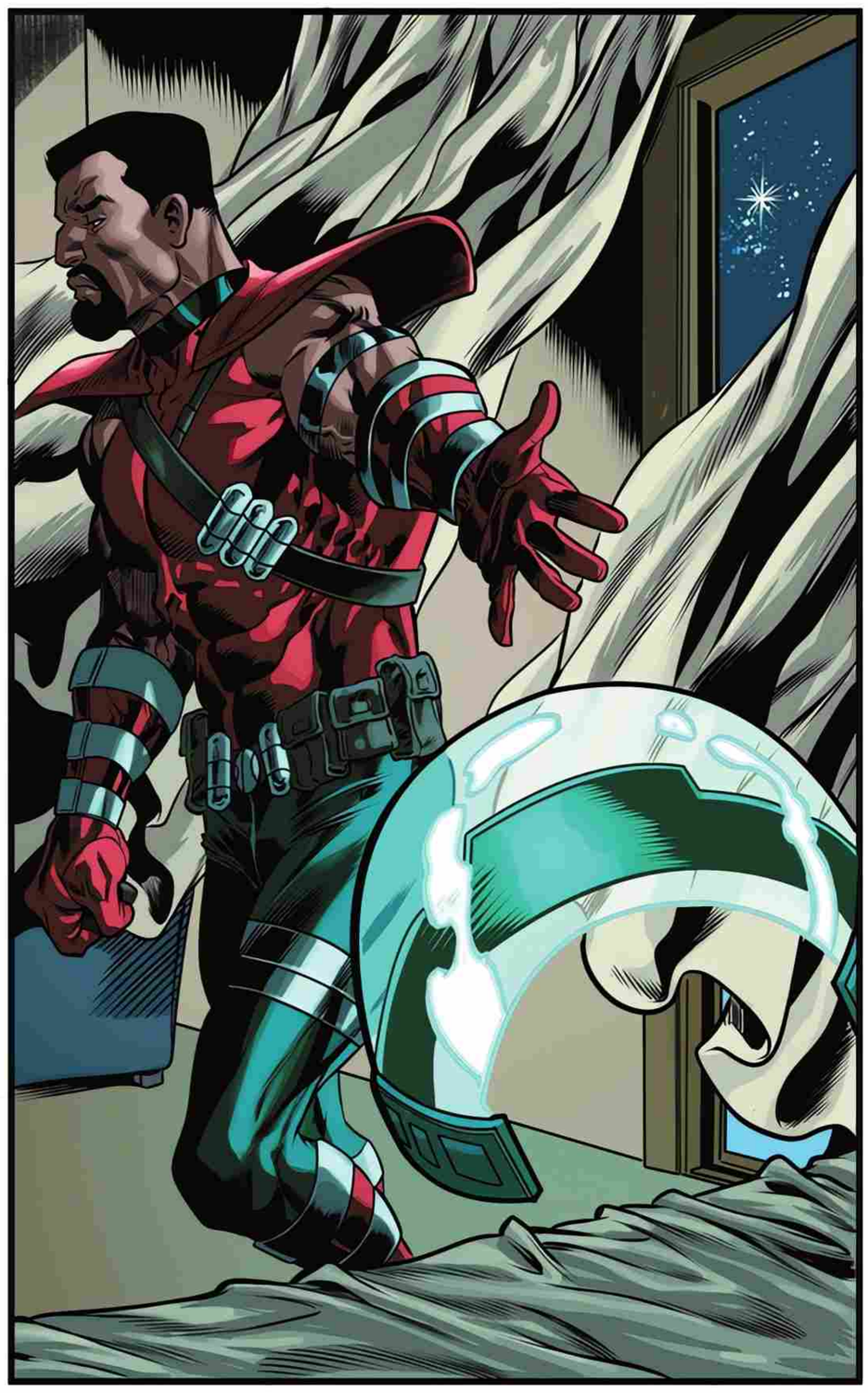
FINE. BUT WE CAN'T TALK HERE, AND FOR ALL I KNOW THEY BUGGED MY CAR. GUESS WE'RE WALKING INTO TOWN. GODDAMN IT...

THANK YOU SO MUCH, MISTER, UH...

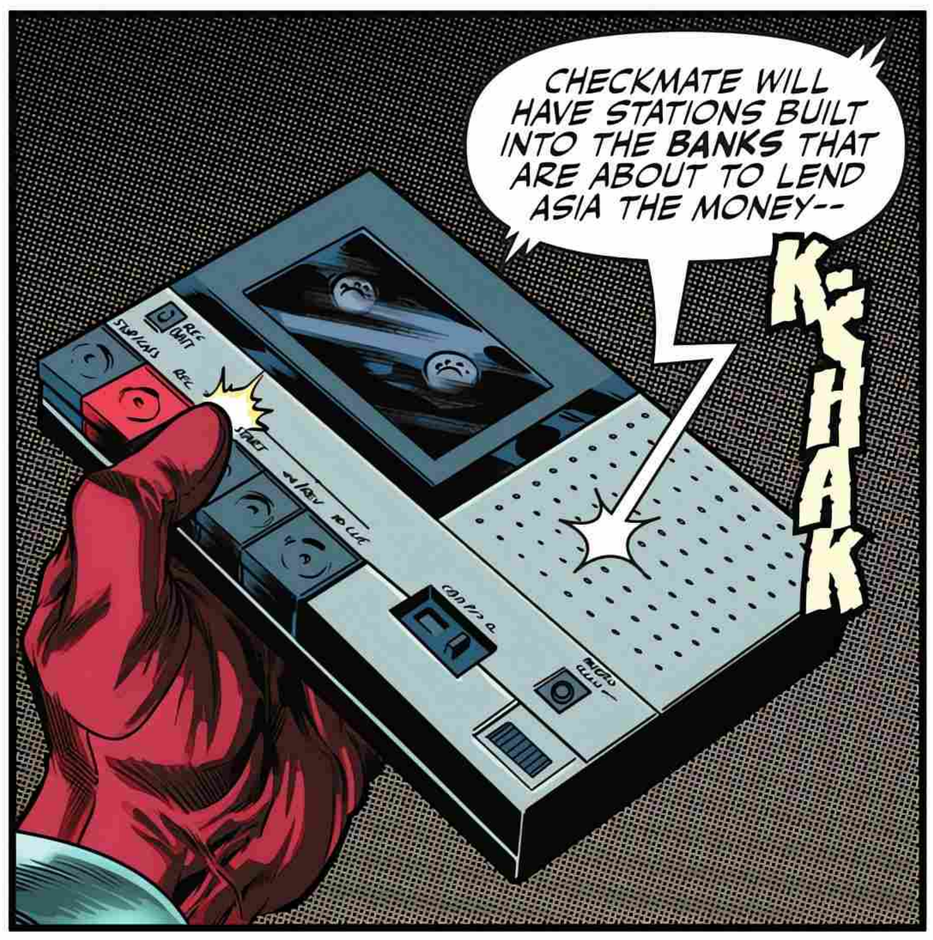
MY NAME'S *JACOB MARLOWE.*

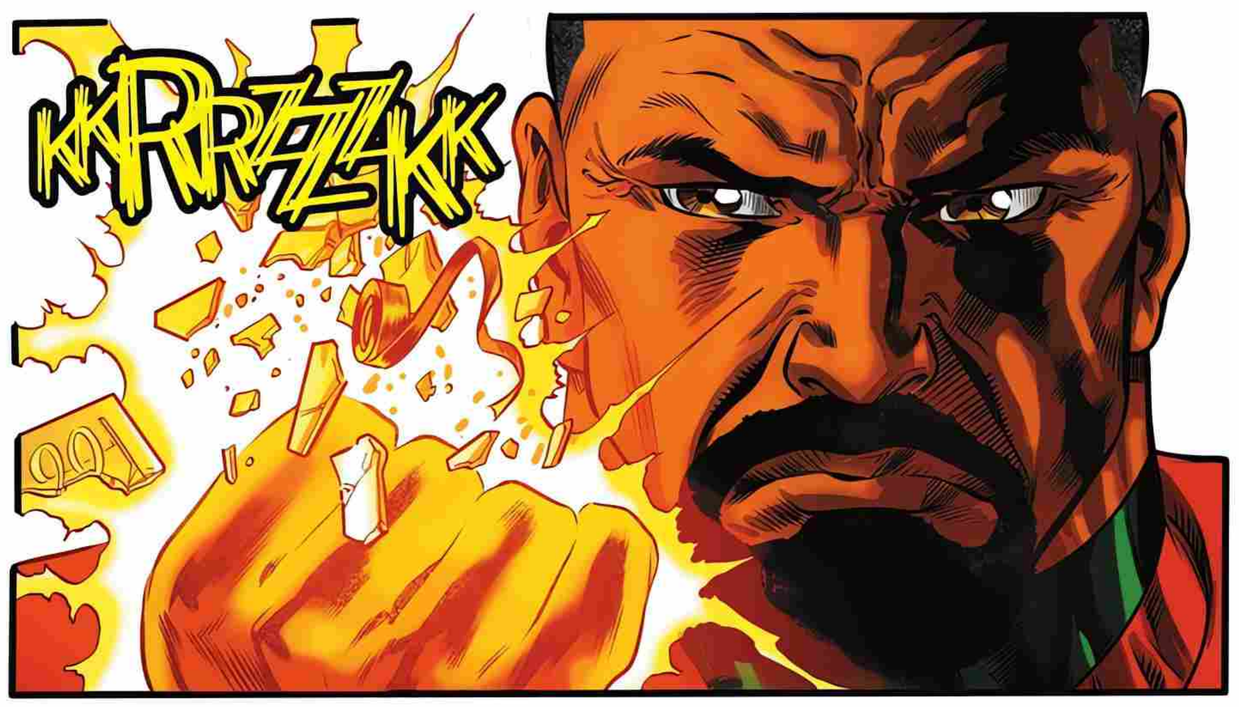
AND *HER* NAME *ISN'T* KATRINA CUPERTINO.


ITERCONTINENTAL HOTEL



...CHECKMATE IS GOING TO SEE THE POWER OUR ALLIANCE GIVES IT. GLOBALLY.
THE WEATHERMAN IS GOING TO SEE IT, TOO.


CHECKMATE WILL HAVE STATIONS BUILT INTO THE BANKS THAT ARE ABOUT TO LEND ASIA THE MONEY--
K-KHAK


KKRRZZAKK

FZFZFZFZFZFZFZ--

--HONESTLY, ADELINE OWES YOU.

WHEN YOU HEAR ABOUT HOW THEY CAME UP WITH CROWN OF HORNS, YOU'RE GONNA DEMAND A PERCENTAGE OF THIS THING SHE'S DOING HERE.

BBRRRRRRRRNNNNNNGGG

HELLO?

...I DIDN'T ORDER ROOM SERV--

IN NEXT CONTINEL

# KRAKOA

WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT?!

SOME SUBTLE PROFESSIONALISM.

SLADE? DOES THAT AT LEAST MEAN TANGO DOWN?

IF HE DOESN'T COME ROCKETING DOWN HERE TO **BEAT** MY ASS, THEN **YEAH.**

SLADE. ***AMANDA*** IS RUNNING THIS OPERATION. STOP BEING RUDE.

YES, ***DEAR.*** SORRY, ***DEAR.***

AMANDA. THIS IS SOMETHING SLADE IS GOOD AT.

WHY ***ADELINE.*** AM I OFF THE COUCH?

LET'S SEE HOW WELL-BEHAVED YOU ARE IN GAMORRA.

HE BLEW A HOLE IN THE INTERCONTINENTAL RIGHT WHEN YUMIKO MOST NEEDS ***CALM,*** ADELINE. THIS IS WHAT SLADE DOES ***WELL?***

WATCH YOURSELF, WALLER. AND CALM DOWN. THIS THING DOESN'T LEAVE CASINGS OR FRAG. JUST SAY IT'S A GAS LEAK.

EVERYONE'LL BELIEVE THAT ABOUT A SHITHOLE COUNTRY LIKE THIS.

REALLY, AMANDA, DON'T WORRY. YUMIKO ***OWNS*** THE ONLY REPUTABLE NEWSPAPER HERE AND CHECKMATE FUNDS AT LEAST TWO TABLOIDS.

ACTUALLY, SPEAKING OF, SLADE, YOUR ***IDEA*** FOR THAT ***REPORTER?*** ABSOLUTELY NOT.

FORGET THAT--

--HE'S NOT DOWN.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
SLADE!
GET AWAY FROM THAT YACHT! DO NOT INVOLVE CIVILIANS--
SLADE!
TEEZKRK
TEEZKRK
TEEZKRK
TEEZKRK
TEEZKRK
TEEZKRK

ADELINE, CONTROL YOUR GODDAMN HUSBAND!

SHIP'S *SINKING*, KING!

YOU AND ME GONNA *END* THIS?

OR ARE YOU GONNA *SAVE THEM?*

PLEASE!

I DON'T WANT TO DIE, SIR!

THOUGHT SO.

THERE GOES MY OFFER, KING!

YOU COULD HAVE BEEN *RICH,* YOU DUMB FUCK!

AND KING GOT AWAY. THIS IS A FIASCO. SO MUCH FOR BLAMING IT ON A GAS LEAK.

*AMANDA.* YOU *DON'T* TALK TO ME LIKE THAT. *EVER.*

*ESPECIALLY* NOT WHEN *HE'S* ON THE LINE.

...

YOU TOLD SLADE I WAS IN CHARGE.

I TOLD SLADE YOU WERE IN CHARGE.

*OF THIS OPERATION.*

THANK YOU!

AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

"SO *THIS* IS HOW IT ENDS FOR THE GREAT *BATTALION,* HUH?"

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

TEN DAYS EARLIER.

STUCK IN A *BASEMENT* GIVING *POP QUIZZES* TO THE PEOPLE DOING THE *REAL* WORK.

"THIS WON'T TAKE LONG, SLADE."

I *KNOW* IT WON'T, KING. MY MAN *BILLY* HERE IS GONNA MAKE SURE OF THAT.

SPEND ENOUGH TIME AS A CONTRACTOR AND YOU GET USED TO "NONCUSTODIAL INTERVIEWS" WITH THE *INSPECTOR GENERAL* BOYS.

BILLY SAYS THIS IS ABOUT A *GIRL.* THAT RIGHT, BIG MAN?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT. LOOK FAMILIAR, SLADE? 'CAUSE THAT WAS TAKEN ON YOUR LAST RENDITION FERRY.

OH, HEY. ***HER.*** CROWN OF HORNS, WE CALLED HER.

YOU TALK TO THE ***PROJECT MANAGER*** ABOUT WHATEVER THIS IS? ***CHECKMATE*** WRITES THE TASK ORDERS. I JUST DRIVE THE DELIVERY TRUCK.

HERE'S THE THING ABOUT ***KATRINA CUPERTINO,*** SLADE.

"YOU ***KNOW*** HER."

BEFORE THE TASK ORDER? NAH. WOULDN'T FORGET A CHICK WITH ELECTRODES STICKING OUT OF HER HEAD.

CUPERTINO HUMAN RESOURCES? YOUR GAMORRAN ***SUBCONTRACTOR?*** A ***LITTLE BIRDIE*** TOLD ME SHE CAME TO ***THEM*** FROM ***YOU.***

"THAT SURE IS WEIRD, HUH, SLADE?"

THAT'S IT. WE'RE LEAVING.

NO, WAIT A MINUTE, BILLY. THIS IS EASY TO CLEAR UP.

SOMETIMES WE'LL RECOMMEND A TALENTED SEASONAL WORKER FOR A BETTER-PAYING JOB AT ONE OF OUR SUBS IN PLACES LIKE GAMORRA. GOOD ***OPPORTUNITY*** FOR THEM.

DO I REMEMBER CROWN OF HORNS ***BEFORE*** HER SPECIAL CORONATION? NO. BUT THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT HAPPENED.

"CUPERTINO WILL BACK ME UP ON THAT."

AND I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ***CHECKMATE*** WILL VOUCH FOR CUPERTINO.

"EASY CALL WHEN YOUR ***WIFE*** IS THE BISHOP IN CHARGE OF TAILORED ACCESS OPS.

"BUT ONE MORE THING, SLADE."

THE REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE DS LOGISTICAL FLIGHT WHERE YOU GRABBED CYBERNARY LISTS YOU AS THE SOLE OPERATOR. YOU DID THE CAPTURE OPERATION *AND* FLEW ALL THAT WAY WITH NO CO-PILOT?

WHAT? LET ME SEE THAT.

"OH, *UH-UH.* NO *WAY.*

"ADELINE ISN'T LEAVING *ME* WITH THE BILL FOR HER SUPERHERO SUSHI PLATTER.

YOU TALK TO *MICHAEL CRAY?* HE YOUR *LITTLE BIRDIE?*

ADELINE SAID SHE HAD SOME OPERATION GOING TO ENHANCE KAIZEN GAMORRA'S DAUGHTER. BUT THE ENHANCEMENTS NEEDED TO BE *COLLECTED* FROM THE PILOT.

ME *AND* CRAY COLLECTED.

BUT *LOOK,* BIG MAN. YOU *CAN'T* FIGHT ADELINE. TAKE IT FROM HER *HUSBAND.* MIGHT AS WELL FIGHT *THE WEATHERMAN.*

COME WORK FOR *ME.* I CAN ADD A COUPLE ZEROES TO THAT CHECKMATE CHECK. ENOUGH THAT I DON'T GIVE A *FUCK* ABOUT SAYING THAT ON TAPE.

ZZZLKRK

ZZZZLKRK

RRRRRRRMMMMM

"WHO KNOWS?

"MAYBE I CAN EVEN GET YOU BACK IN YOUR *SUIT* AGAIN."

HONESTLY, ADELINE *OWES* YOU. WHEN YOU HEAR ABOUT HOW THEY CAME UP WITH CROWN OF HORNS, YOU'RE GONNA DEMAND A *PERCENTAGE* OF THIS THING SHE'S DOING HERE.

ANYWAY, THINK ABOUT IT, BIG MAN.

YOU KNOW HOW YOU GET BACK AT THESE FUCKERS?

YOU *BILL* THEIR ASSES.

TAXI

WOW. I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A PLACE LIKE THIS BEFORE.

I'VE BEEN PLACES YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE, BUT I *REALLY* LIKE THE NIGHT MARKET THEY HAVE HERE.

AND THE *CROWD* MEANS WE CAN TALK *FRANKLY.*

THESE *CHECKMATE* AND *CUPERTINO* PEOPLE ARE SICKOS.

BUT I HAVE *OTHER* STUFF GOING ON, AND THAT MEANS I NEED TO BE *INSIDE* A PLACE LIKE CUPERTINO.

AND THAT MEANS *YOU* CAN'T WRITE YOUR *STORY* IN A WAY THAT SUGGESTS YOU HAVE A GUY ON THE INSIDE.

THIS IS THE GREATEST THING I'VE EVER TASTED. OH MY GOD.

THAT'S NO PROBLEM, MR. MARLOWE. WE USUALLY PUT IT LIKE, "ACCORDING TO A SOURCE FAMILIAR." DOES THAT WORK?

CUPERTINO IS A *METAHUMAN CHOP SHOP.* THEY TAKE PEOPLE IN BAD SITUATIONS. LURE THEM IN WITH PROMISES OF MAKING FAST MONEY THROUGH GETTING ENHANCEMENTS.

CUPERTINO'S ALSO A PROVING GROUND FOR *HUMAN WEAPONS.*

THEY CATALOGUE DIFFERENT POWER SETS ALPHABETICALLY AND *MARKET* THEM TO VARIOUS *UNSAVORY* CHARACTERS.

THE WOMAN IN YOUR PICTURE IS NAMED *IVANA BAIUL.*

*KATRINA CUPERTINO* IS A *CATEGORY.* A *PROPRIETARY TECHNOLOGY.*

THE *CYBERNARY* ENHANCEMENT.

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? JUST DON'T FUCK ME OVER HERE.

HER NAME WASN'T KATRINA CUPERTINO.

IVANA WAS *REAL* SMART. IN A DIFFERENT WORLD SHE WOULD HAVE RUN AN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

IN *THIS* ONE, SHE WAS *BROKE.* SHE TOOK A JOB IN AN UNFAMILIAR COUNTRY WITH A DEFENSE CONTRACTOR PROMISING BIG BUCKS.

ENDED UP IN *DEBT* TO THE CONTRACTOR. SO IT TOLD IVANA ABOUT *CUPERTINO.*

GET OUT OF DEBT *FAST.* BY SURGICALLY GRAFTING STUFF TO YOU THAT MAKES YOU A LIVING WEAPON.

BUT THEN YOU HAVE TO BE USED THE WAY CUPERTINO'S CLIENTS *DIRECT* YOU. AND IVANA DIDN'T *WANT* TO BE USED.

IT DOESN'T SOUND FROM WHAT YOU SAID LIKE SHE'D HAVE A *CHOICE.*

THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING. CUPERTINO WAS GOING TO BE OUT A *LOT* OF MONEY IF IT COULDN'T BRING ITS KATRINA-CLASS UNIT TO MARKET.

OUT OF NOWHERE, THE CONTRACTOR WHO DELIVERED IVANA TO CUPERTINO CALLS. SAYS IF CUPERTINO CAN GET HER TO SOMEPLACE INCONSPICUOUS, HE'LL SNATCH HER AND THEY'LL GET A BUYER FOR THE CYBERNARY LIKE THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE.

GUY IS *REAL* CONNECTED. CHECKMATE-CONNECTED. LIKE, HE SAID HIS WIFE WAS GOING TO DO THIS DEAL WITH...

...I DON'T WANT TO SAY HER NAME OUT HERE, BUT THE WOMAN FROM THE BANK WHO'S ABOUT TO *RUN* THIS PLACE.

I'M GONNA STRANGLE LOMBARD UNTIL HE BEGS TO GET PUT ON THE SPORTS DESK.

CUPERTINO BOUGHT HER A SPA RESERVATION AND A PLANE TICKET. SAID SHE SHOULD HAVE A WEEKEND OFF TO THINK THINGS OVER. THE GUY AND HIS GOON WERE WAITING.

THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

IT'S A ***TON,*** AND THANK YOU SO MUCH. BUT I HAVE TO ASK HOW YOU ***KNOW*** ALL THIS. YOU'RE A ***JANITOR?***

LIKE I SAID, I HAVE MY OWN THING GOING. IT MEANS I HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON WHAT'S SHAPING UP TO BE A METAHUMAN ARMS TRADE. ***QUIETLY.***

YOU PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THE GUY WHO EMPTIES ***YOUR*** TRASH AT THE ***DAILY PLANET,*** MS. LANE?

NO, LOOK, THAT'S FAIR. THIS IS...ASTONISHINGLY SPECIFIC. SO I ***HAVE*** TO ASK YOU HOW YOU'D KNOW ALL THIS.

BEFORE I GO, HERE'S SOMETHING ***ELSE*** YOU MIGHT NOT THINK A JANITOR WOULD KNOW.

THIS WHOLE SCHEME IS THE KIND OF SHIT THAT GETS YOU MADE ***WEATHERMAN.*** IF YOU CAN PULL IT OFF.

DON'T PUT MY NAME IN THE PAPER, LOIS.

RRRR

ZZZZKRK
RRRRRRRRRRMMMMMM
ON TA
ZZZZKRK

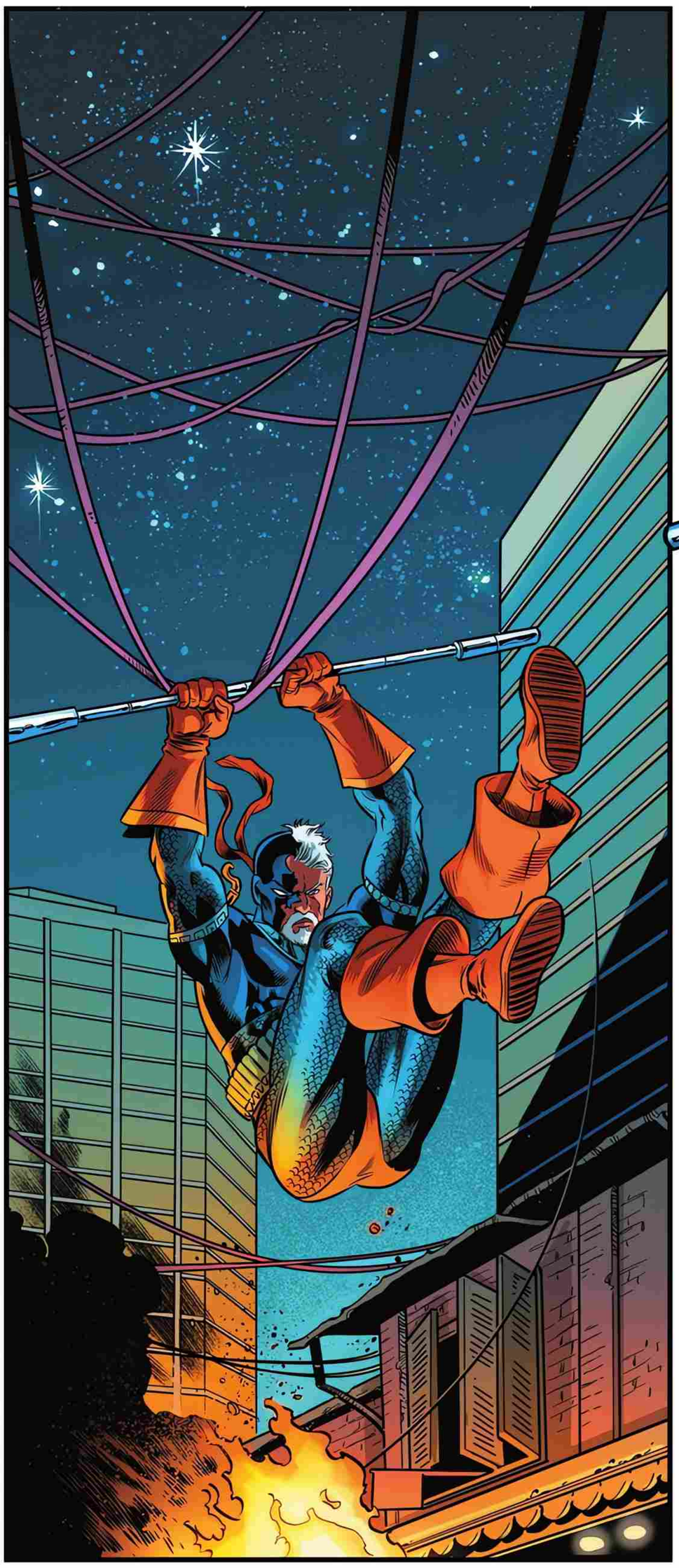
GOT YOUR ASS.

GET THAT SHIT OFF. I'M GONNA SEE YOUR *FACE* WHEN I KILL YOU, BOY.

THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED HOW TO FLY WITHOUT THE SUIT.

HHHHHKRRRRRRRRRKKK

BYE-BYE, BIG MAN.



GASP

WALLER...
I HAVE EYES ON THE REPORTER.

OH NO OH NO.

NOOOO--

SLADE! STOP RIGHT THE FUCK NOW!

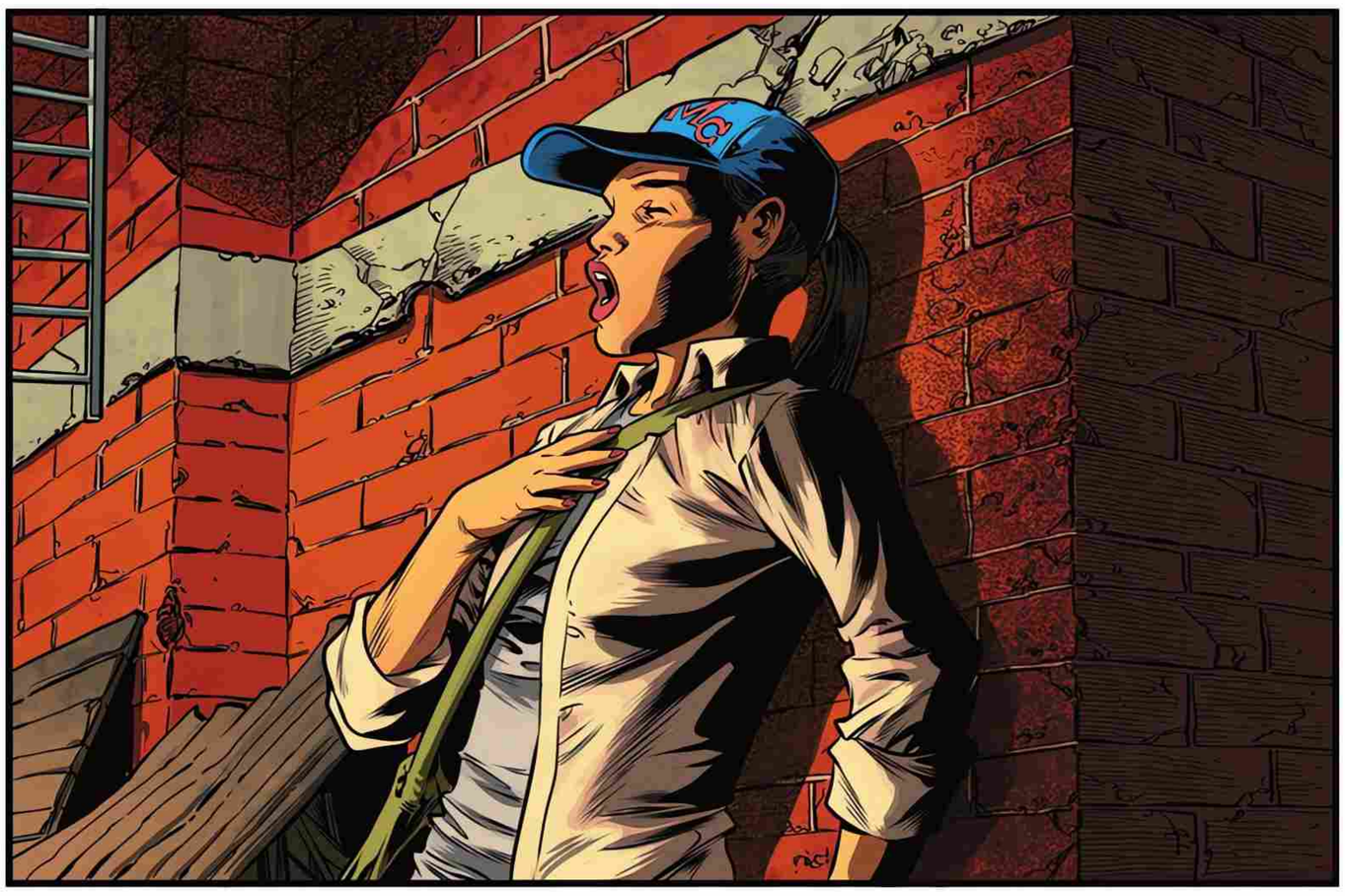
SLADE! YOU CANNOT KILL A DAILY PLANET REPORTER!

SHE INTERVIEWED THE TERRORIST! WE WERE UP ON HER *COMMS!* OR DID YOU *FORGET THAT?*

SLADE, IT'S ADELINE. STOP RIGHT NOW.

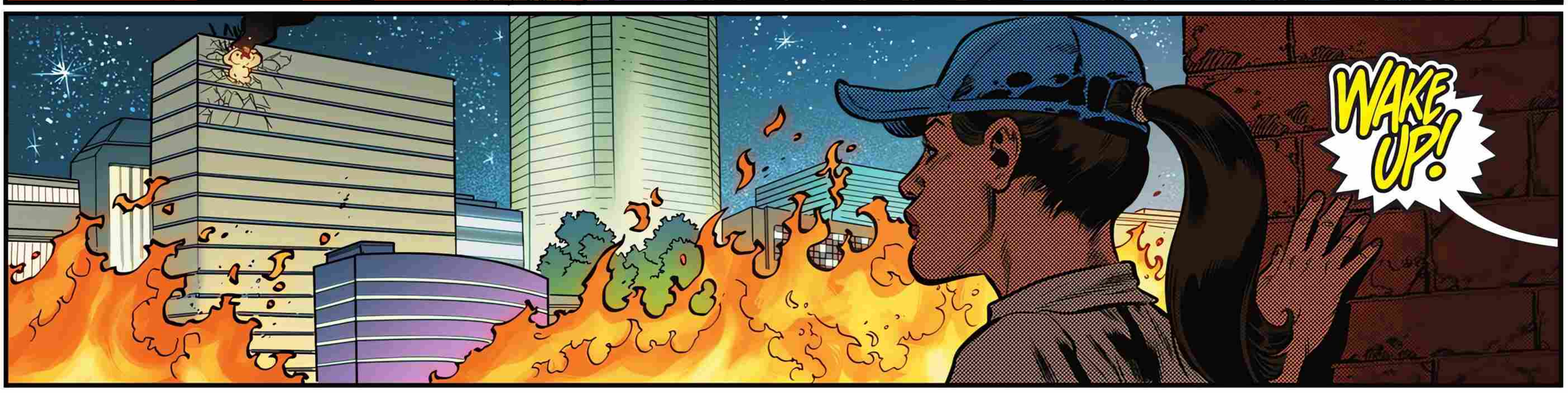
*BIG* FUCKING MISTAKE, GIRLS.

HAVE FUN LEARNING *THAT* LESSON.


MC

MC

MOMMY... PLEASE...
WAKE UP...


WAKE UP!

DON'T BE LIKE THAT.

LOOK AT IT THIS WAY.

WE WON.

"WE WON THE MOMENT YUMIKO GOT THE CYBERNARY CHASSIS.

"TODAY *CONFIRMS* IT. KING WAS OUR LAST OBSTACLE."

"*YOU* DID THIS, AMANDA.

"YOU GOT YUMIKO THE CYBERNARY. YOU GOT RID OF THE OBSTACLES."

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO MEET THE *WEATHERMAN.*

"IT'S TIME PEOPLE *KNOW* WHAT AMANDA WALLER HAS DONE FOR THIS COUNTRY."

TO BE CONCLUDED.

# WALLER VS. WILDSTORM


**CHRIS CONROY**
EDITOR

**MARQUIS DRAPER**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**DARRAN ROBINSON**
PUBLICATION DESIGN

**TIFFANY HUANG**
PUBLICATION PRODUCTION

**Marie Javins VP – Editor-in-Chief**

**Jim Lee President, Publisher & Chief Creative Officer**
**Anne DePies Senior VP & General Manager**
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**Nick J. Napolitano VP – Publishing & Business Operations**
**Nancy Spears VP – Sales & Marketing**

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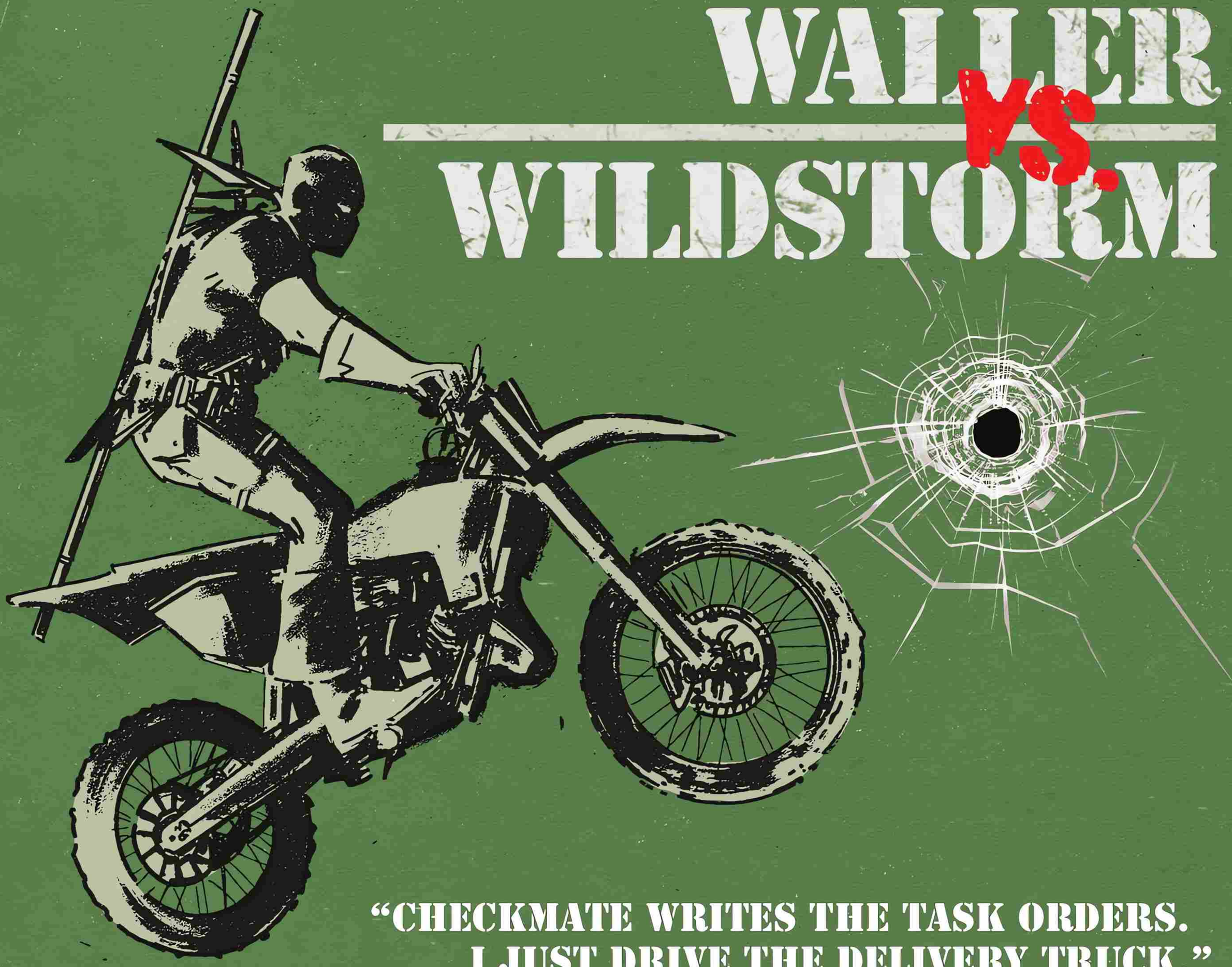

**"CHECKMATE WRITES THE TASK ORDERS. I JUST DRIVE THE DELIVERY TRUCK."**

**In the late 1980s, as the Cold War begins to thaw, a new battle heats up...for the soul of the intelligence agency Checkmate. As the agency's super-heroic public face, Jackson King—a.k.a. the armored Battalion, former leader of Stormwatch and the symbol of American might—has long suspected that Adeline Kane is up to dirty tricks overseas, engineering horrors that betray everything he believes about service to one's country. But King doesn't know that Kane has a clever new ally—an ambitious young woman named Amanda Waller. She has her own ideas about how metahumans can serve their country. And honor, dignity, and long lives don't factor into them...**

**National-security reporter Spencer Ackerman (the Daily Beast, *Reign of Terror*), comics and video game writer Evan Narcisse (*Black Panther*, *Spider-Man: Miles Morales*, *Batman: Gotham Knights – Gilded City*), and veteran artist Jesús Merino (*Justice League*, *Wonder Woman*) celebrate WildStorm's legacy of espionage-flavored superhero morality plays, pitting Stormwatch against the deadliest people in the DCU—including Deathstroke himself!**

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COVER BY JORGE FORNÉS